



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Development Services
Division of Building, Construction & Safety

Technical Policy 11B-1

Subject: Accessibility to Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations

Code Section: N/A

Code Edition: 2010 California Building Code

Issue Date: April 19, 2012

Approved by: _____ Signed copy on file
Afsaneh Ahmadi, Chief Building Official P.E.

The 2010 California Building Code (CBC) requires public accommodations and services to be made accessible to persons with disabilities. The 2010 CBC includes accessibility standards for card readers at gasoline fuel-dispensing facilities but does not include regulations for accessibility at electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The Division of the State Architect has developed a guideline titled “Interim Disabled Access Guidelines for Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations” and published Policy #97-03 (see copy attached). City of San Diego Technical Policy 11B-1 has been adapted from the State guidelines and State standards for access to card-reader devices at fuel-dispensing equipment to ensure uniform and consistent enforcement by review and inspection staff.

When the CBC requires that parking in existing or new construction be accessible, the required parking is designed to serve the building and shall be used exclusively for parking of appropriately identified vehicles. Accessible EV charging stations provide a service available to disabled and non-disabled persons using electric vehicles and are provided based on an availability basis.

This policy applies to the installation of EV Charging Stations in both new and existing construction.

EV charging stations located in non-public areas and used to charge vehicles managed by fleet services such as rental car agencies, EV car dealerships etc. are not required to be accessible since they do not serve persons with disabilities.

I. Where Required:

1. **New Construction.** When provided in conjunction with new buildings or parking facilities such as surface parking lots or parking garages, the accessible EV charging station(s) must be located in close proximity (DSA recommends within 200 ft) to a major facility, public way or a major path of travel on the site.

Accessible EV charging stations not provided in conjunction with accessible parking spaces need not be provided immediately adjacent to the major facilities on the site since the primary purpose of the stations is to provide the charging as a service, parking is not intended to be the primary use of the EV charging stations.

An accessible path of travel is required from the accessible EV charging station to other services provided at the site such as buildings, parking facilities, etc.

2. **Existing sites.** When provided at existing sites, the accessible charging station need not be located in close proximity to other services at the site.

An accessible path of travel connecting the accessible EV charging station to a major facility, public way or major path of travel on the site is required to the extent that the cost of providing such path does not exceed 20% of the cost of the EV equipment and installation of all EV charging stations at the site over a three-year period, when such valuation does not exceed the threshold amount referenced in CBC Section 1134, Exception 1.

In lieu of providing detailed information on the plans to demonstrate compliance with the CBC accessibility requirements for the existing parking and path of travel, the following two notes can be added to the plan(s) to certify that the existing facilities complies with the CBC. The notes shall be as follows.

- a. Add and sign the following certification note "I am the designer/owner in responsible charge of this EV charging station project; I have inspected the proposed location for the proposed accessible EV charging station and have determined that the accessible route of travel to the EV charging station shown on the site plan complies as an accessible route of travel as is required by the California Building Code. Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____."; and

- b. "If the Building Inspector determines noncompliance with the above statement he/she shall require complete, detailed plans clearly showing all existing non-complying conditions and the proposed modifications to meet current accessibility provisions for the parking space and accessible route of travel to the EV charging station to the extent required by the California Building Code. The revised plans must be resubmitted to the Structural review section for approval."

Accessible EV charging stations in existing accessible parking spaces: When the CBC requires that parking in existing or new parking facilities be accessible, the required parking is designed to serve the building and shall be used exclusively for parking of appropriately identified vehicles. Accessible EV charging stations provide a service available to disabled and non-disabled persons using electric vehicles and are provided based on an availability basis.

When a new accessible EV charging station is installed in an existing accessible parking space, not less than one additional EV charging station shall be provided.

Not more than one accessible EV charging station shall be located in an existing accessible parking space unless more than one accessible EV charging station is required.

When more than one accessible EV charging station is required and are placed in existing accessible parking spaces, the EV charging stations shall be reasonably distributed throughout the parking lot or parking structure.

When an EV charging station is placed in conjunction with an existing accessible parking space the identification sign required in subsection (d) below shall be omitted.

II. **Specifications for Disabled Accessible EV Charging Stations:**

Vehicular spaces provided for accessible EV charging stations shall allow for persons with disabilities to exit an electric vehicle, to access the charging unit and place the charging cable on the vehicle. While the space designated for the accessible EV charging station is not required to be striped and identified as is required for accessible parking spaces, the space shall be designed to comply with the following requirements.

- (a) **Number of Accessible EV Charging Stations Required:** Not less than one EV charging station shall be accessible to persons with disabilities.

When the number of EV charging stations proposed exceeds 25, they shall be provided at a rate of one accessible EV charging station for every 25 stations proposed. Not more than a total of 4 accessible EV charging stations is required on the same site.

- (b) **Dimensions for Accessible EV Charging Stations:** The EV charging station shall include a space to place the electric vehicle that is not less than 9 foot wide by 18 feet deep to accommodate the vehicle. The space shall also include a 5 ft wide access aisle that extends the full depth of the vehicular space and located on the passenger side of the vehicle. Alternatively, the access aisle can be located between an accessible parking space and an accessible EV charging station. See figures 1, 2 and 3 for possible configurations.

- (c) **Identification for Accessible EV Charging Stations:**

The accessible EV charging station shall be identified.

- (i) The accessible EV charging station and its access aisle need not be striped or provided with signage as required for an accessible parking space.
- (ii) When an EV charging unit is installed in an existing accessible parking space, the signage at the accessible parking space shall remain in conformance with the requirements of the CBC.
- (iii) To identify an accessible EV charging station an informational sign must be posted which reads, "Parking for EV Charging Only; This Space Designed for Disabled Access; Use Last." When an EV charging station is placed in conjunction with an accessible parking space this sign shall be omitted.

(d) **Disabled Access to Accessible EV Charging Equipment:**

Charging equipment serving accessible EV charging stations shall be accessible.

- (i) The charging equipment, and when applicable card readers, must meet all applicable reach range provisions of CBC Section 1118B and Ch 11C for a 30 by 48 inch wheelchair space used for side or front approach.
- (ii) A clear path of travel measuring not less than 36 inches in clear width shall be provided to access the charging equipment.

Figure 1

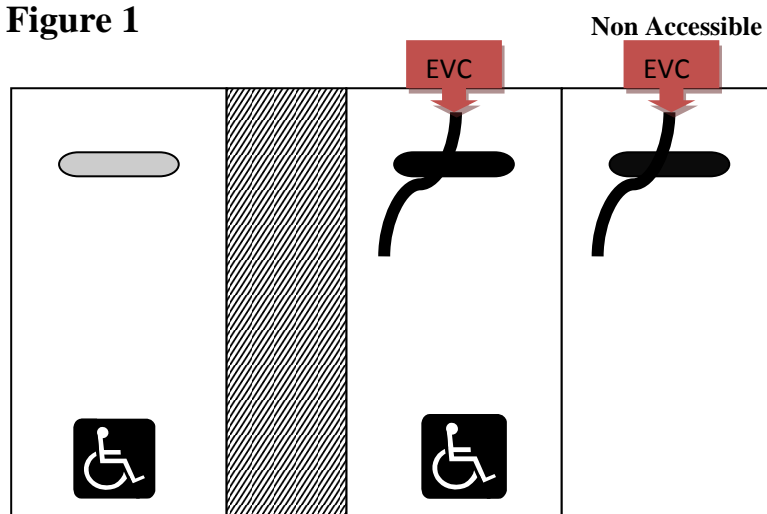
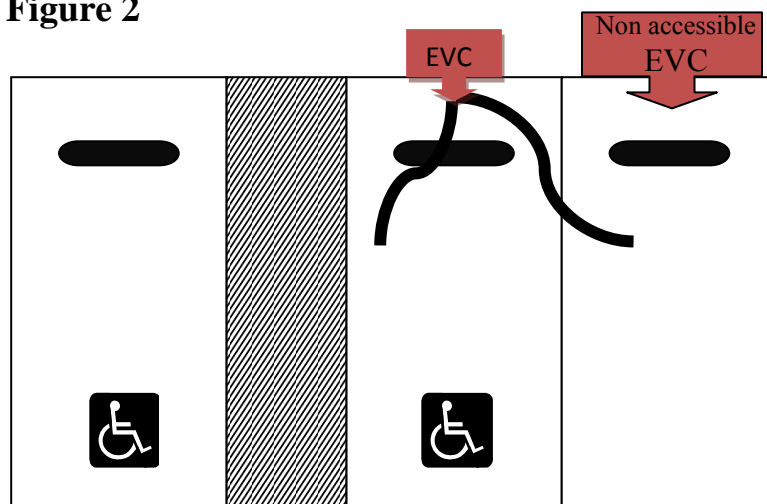
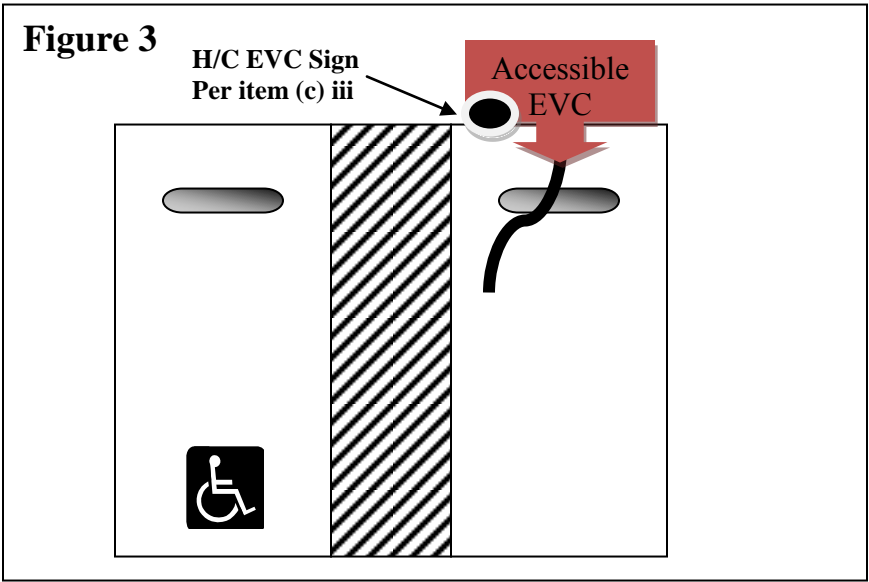


Figure 2





Interim Disabled Access Guidelines for Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations

97-03

Effective 4-30-97

Revised 6-5-97

This policy is applicable to projects under DSA jurisdiction only. DSA's Access Compliance jurisdiction encompasses state-funded buildings, facilities and universities, as well as publicly-funded elementary schools, secondary schools, and community colleges. Local jurisdictions may or may not adopt similar methods of administering current code requirements, determining equivalent facilitation, or defining acceptable parameters as necessary in enforcing the existing California Building Standards Code as allowed under Government Code Section 4451(f) of the California Code of Regulations.

Issue: In state funded projects with electrical vehicle, charging stations must be accessible. Electric Vehicles are being slowly introduced to the consumer market over the next three years as a result of an agreement between automakers and the State of California. The zero emission vehicles as well as the equipment to charge them are continuing to develop and change at a rapid pace. Yet to successfully serve new electric vehicle customers, public charging is essential. Public charging sites that are developed now are likely to see significant technology changes before electric vehicles are fully commercialized. Based on a rule adopted by the California Air Resources Board, beginning in 2003, 10% of vehicles sold in California must be zero emission.

Public charging stations will be installed in public places such as shopping centers, parking lots and garages of companies or municipalities. They are provided as a convenient charging location for Electric Vehicle owners while they work or shop. Full charging of an Electric Vehicle takes between two to three hours.

Resolution: Representatives of the Division of State Architect, California Electric Transportation Coalition, Edison EV, The California Building Officials, Department of Rehabilitation and members of the disabled community have held meetings for the purpose of developing interim guidelines to address the issue of disabled access to these charging stations. The following guidelines have been developed and agreed upon by these organizations:

ARE EV CHARGING STATIONS REQUIRED TO BE ACCESSIBLE?

Yes. EV Charging Stations are required to be accessible because they offer a service to the general public. When EV charging is coupled with regular parking, the EV charging is considered the primary service. (See Item V for further discussions.)

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE EV CHARGING STATIONS MUST BE MADE ACCESSIBLE?

The following table shall be used in determining the required number of accessible charging stations:

# of charging stations provided at a site	# of accessible charging stations required
1 to 25	1
50	2
51 to 75	3

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE EV CHARGING STATIONS MUST BE MADE ACCESSIBLE?

The following table shall be used in determining the required number of accessible charging stations:

# of charging stations provided at a site	# of accessible charging stations required
76 to 100	4

WHAT SPECIFICATIONS MUST THE ACCESSIBLE EV CHARGING STATION COMPLY WITH?

- A 9 foot wide space by 18 feet deep space is required. An access aisle of 5 feet on the passenger side is required. One in every eight accessible charging stations, but not less than one, shall be van accessible with a 8 foot access aisle.
- The accessible EV charging station and its access aisle need not be striped or provided with signage as required for an accessible parking space. An information sign must be posted which reads, "Parking for EV Charging Only; This Space Designed for Disabled Access; Use Last."

MUST ACCESSIBLE EV CHARGING STATIONS BE RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE USE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?

No. The primary function of these stations is the charging of Electric Vehicles. Parking is not intended to be the primary use of the charging station.

ARE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS RELATIVE TO THE LOCATION OF THE ACCESSIBLE EV CHARGING STATIONS?

For installations associated with new construction, the accessible charging station must be located in close proximity to a major facility, public way or a major path of travel on the site. Note: 200 feet is the maximum distance recommended. However, the charging stations need not be provided immediately adjacent to the major facilities since, again, the primary purpose of the stations is to provide the charging as a service, and parking is not intended to be the primary use of the stations.

For installations at existing sites, the accessible charging station need not be located in close proximity to other services at the site.

IS AN ACCESSIBLE PATH OF TRAVEL REQUIRED FROM THE ACCESSIBLE EV CHARGING STATION TO OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE SITE?

Yes, for installations associated with new construction. As for other facilities on the site, an accessible path of travel is required between facilities.

For installation at an existing site, an accessible path of travel is required to the extent that the cost of providing such path does not exceed 20% of the cost of the EV equipment and installation of all EV charging stations at the site, when such valuation does not exceed the threshold amount referenced in Exception 1 of Section 1134 of Title 24. The accessible path of travel shall connect to a major facility, public way or major path of travel on the site.

WHAT SPECIFICATIONS MUST THE CHARGING EQUIPMENT MEET?

The charging equipment must meet all applicable reach range provisions of Section 1118B of Title 24. A clear path of travel measuring 36 inches in clear width to the charging equipment is required.

DOES THE INSTALLATION OF CHARGING STATIONS AT AN EXISTING SITE TRIGGER PATH OF TRAVEL IMPROVEMENTS SUCH AS PRIMARY ENTRANCE TO OTHER FACILITIES, RESTROOMS, TELEPHONES, OR DRINKING FOUNTAINS?

No, unless the above features are located in the parking lot, are accessed directly from the parking lot and designed for use with the parking lot.

HOW DOES THE THREE-YEAR VALUATION ACCUMULATION APPLY TO THE SE INSTALLATIONS?

The valuation of other improvements at the site over the last three years need not be added to the cost of the installation to determine application of the exception referenced in item VI above. The cost of installation of other EV charging stations at the site over a three-year period must be used in determining compliance with the exception.

Approving Authority:



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